

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FUNDS FOR NARCOTIC INTERDICTION PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH
ATTORNEY

GENERAL OF COLOMBIA

FOR: S/NM

1. UNDER COLOMBIAN LAW THE PROCURADURIA OR ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE
NATION HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR "DIRECTION, VIGILANCE AND
COORDINATION" OF THE JUDICIAL POLICE, A BODY OF SPECIALIZED MEN SELEC-
TED

FROM THE RANKS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE, DAS AND COLOMBIAN CUSTOMS
SERVICE. ALL PERSONNEL ENGAGED IN COLOMBIA'S NARCOTICS INTERDICTION
EFFORT ARE JUDICIAL POLICEMEN PRIMARILY, REGARDLESS OF THEIR PARENT
ORGANIZATION. THE ATTORNEY GENERALS RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO
THE JUDICIAL POLICE (AAGJP), DOCTOR MIGUEL SANCHEZ-MENDEZ, AND, MORE
SPECIFICALLY IN RELATION TO THE NARCOTICS INTERDICTION EFFORT, THROUGH

THE CENTRAL NARCOTICS OFFICE, HEADED BY DOCTOR ALBERTO MIRANDA. BOTH
THESE OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE IN THE NARCOTICS
INTERDICTION EFFORT SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1972. THE INITIAL COMMODITY

INPUT BY THIS MISSION IN 1973 WAS FUNNELED THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE
AAGJP TO THE THREE ENTITIES INVOLVED IN THE NARCOTICS EFFORT.

IN NOV 1973, A SPECIAL COMBINED JUDICIAL POLICE NARCOTIC'S UNIT

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WAS ORGANIZED BY THE AAGJP TO INTERCEPT NARCOTICS PASSING THROUGH

THE BOGOTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. THIS UNIT WHICH CONSISTS OF AN EQUAL NUMBER OF PERSONNEL FROM DAS, THE NATIONAL POLICE AND CUSTOMS, IS GUIDED BY ATTORNEYS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE AAGJP. THE SUCCESS OF THIS INITIAL UNIT HAS BEEN REMARKABLE. BETWEEN 3 JULY AND 31 DEC 1974, THE UNIT SEIZED 82 KGS OF COCAINE, 175 KGS OF MARIJUANA AND ARRESTED 60 PERSONS INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS TRAFFIC.

2. THE SECOND COMBINED JUDICIAL POLICE UNIT BEGAN OPERATIONS AT THE CALI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DURING MARCH 1975 AND MET WITH IMMEDIATE SUCCESS. THE AAGJP PLANS TO ORGANIZE NINE ADDITIONAL COMBINED JUDICIAL POLICE UNITS TO COVER THE MAJOR KNOWN CENTERS OF NARCOTICS TRAFFIC; HOWEVER, THE COLOMBIAN BUDGET PRECLUDES THE IMMEDIATE FORMATION OF THESE UNITS WITHOUT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

3. SINCE THE TWO EXISTING COMBINED JUDICIAL POLICE UNITS HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE, THIS MISSION BELIEVES IT DESIRABLE TO SUPPORT THE AAGJP PLAN TO ESTABLISH THE NINE ADDITIONAL UNITS.

4. THE PROPOSED PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE AAGJP WOULD REQUIRE HIS OFFICE TO SELECT AND TRAIN THE REQUIRED PERSONNEL, ARRANGE OFFICE SPACE IN THE VARIOUS LOCATIONS INVOLVED, TO ASSIGN AT LEAST ONE ATTORNEY FROM HIS STAFF TO COORDINATE THE EFFORTS OF EACH OF THE UNITS, AND TO MAINTAIN CENTRALIZED RECORDS OF THE ACTIVITY OF ALL THE COMBINED JUDICIAL POLICE UNITS. THE MISSION WOULD AGREE TO SUPPORT THESE UNITS WITH THE NECESSARY TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT OVER A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS. THE FISCAL 1975 PRO-AG WOULD REQUIRE APPROXIMATELY 163,000 DOLS, WITH A PROJECTED AMOUNT OF APPROXIMATELY 120,000 DOLS FOR FISCAL 1976. THE 1975 FIGURE INCLUDES 50,000 DOLS IN NARCOTICS IDENTIFICATION EQUIPMENT FOR THE LABORATORY OF LEGAL MEDICINE WHICH IS ALSO UNDER JURISDICTION

OF THE AAGJP. OTHER EQUIPMENT DEEMED APPROPRIATE FOR FISCAL 1975 INCLUDES VEHICLES (6), 36,000; RADIO (20), 50,000; BALANCE SCALES (6) 1500 NARCOTEST KITS (50), 1,500; BINOCULARS (6) 1000; CAMERAS (6), 1200 EVIDENCE SAFES (6) 5,000 TYPWRITERS (6), 1,500 AND OTHER COSTS FUNDS, 15,000. TOTAL 162,700 DOLS.

5. TENTATIVE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF COLOMBIA AND IF THE REQUIRED FUNDS ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE MISSION A PRO-AG COULD BE CONSUMATED PROMPTLY.

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